# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3749
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
RPO, AHMEDABAD
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of passport applications received during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 up to February 2002 at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad, month wise;

(b) whether the same have not been cleared so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for their expeditious disposal?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

a) The number of passport applications received during the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 up February 2002 is given below:

| Month | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 11468 | 13524 | 16649 | 13524 |
| February | 14476 | 18732 | 15537 | 18732 |
| March | 16835 | 19087 | 19926 | 19087 |
| April | 14087 | 16533 | 18284 | |
| May | 14137 | 20984 | 22920 | |
| June | 13834 | 16562 | 22718 | |
| July | 14588 | 10660 | 28769 | |
| August | 15701 | 11643 | 26710 | |
| September | 14680 | 15909 | 16853 | |
| October | 15037 | 10576 | 17812 | |
| November | 11040 | 15755 | 14623 | |
| December | 14656 | 19361 | 15010 | |
| Total | 170539 | 189327 | 235811 | 51343 |

b) Details about the number of applications cleared during the above years are given below:

| Year | No. of applications cleared (April-March) |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 162969 |
| 2000-2001 | 147210 |
| 2001-2002 | 188904 |

c) The reasons for high pendencies are the following:-

(i) The number of passport applications rose to 2.36 lakhs in the year 2001 from 1.89 lakhs in the year 2000 and 1.46 lakhs in the year 1997.

(ii) The deployment of staff and officers at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad has not been commensurate with this increase in passport applications.

(iii) There was a Central Bureau of Investigation raid on the Ahmedabad Passport Office in the year 2000 and several officers were arrested and are under suspension. The continuing investigation and inquiry has made the staff extra cautious and circumspect.

d) The Govt. is coping with the increasing volume of work by a greater degree of computerisation, introduction of machine writing of passports and deputing from time to time additional staff from other Passport Offices to Regional Passport Office Ahmedabad. A task force has been set up to clear the pendency at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad.

The necessary infrastructure like computers, scanners, passport printers, etc. has also been augmented at the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad to clear the pendency.

Passport services in India have been decentralised, according to which passport applications can be deposited in the office of District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police in all district Headquarters.Besides, since the Passport Office at Ahmedabad is over burdened, part of the work would be shifted to Surat where a new passport office is proposed to be set up as soon as possible. Decentralisation and distribution of workload of Passport Office, Ahmedabad will result in improvement of passport services in the state.